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A Practical Essay on Plantation Economy.

That a premium should be offered for the "best practical paper on Plantation Economy as Adapted to South Carolina," is evidence that the system of plantation management generally adopted by our planters is imperfect. Indeed it may be questioned whether they do or ever have generally practised any well devised scheme of plantation economy. That the planters of South Carolina do subsist and accumulate is little else as a proof of the material advantages of our climate and country. Unless devotion to cotton culture be accepted as an evidence of approved plantation economy, our farmers are not entitled to the credit of high farming. In a country where a genial climate and a generous soil compensate for half the labor required in colder climates, no system can be produced that does not produce a surplus for market, as well as subsist the producers. That this can be done by the farmers of South Carolina is as clear as it is that it is not pone; and it is equally evident that we are capable of annually exporting an average cotton crop without the necessity of importing a single article of such necessities as can be grown in the Temperate Zone. To suggest a method by which this end can be effected will be the object of this paper.

In the first place, all the leaks on the plantation, however small, must be stopped, for often a half penny saved is two pence made. A pound of bacon bought at ten cents seems cheap enough; but when the teams with hired drivers are to be taken from the farm to haul it from the place of purchase, or from the railroad; and then, too, the money which is to pay for it being, in all probability, *in futuro* and drawing one and a half per cent. per month, considerable trouble and labor had better be incurred to grow that meat at home, rather than buy because so cheap. No farmer in South Carolina need buy a single pound of meat. One single well-bred hog, twelve months old, butchered annually for each member of his family, will supply him with abundance of meat. And this can be done by simply economizing the waste about our farm lots. The fallen fruits, the stubble fields, the kitchen slops, and the gleanings about his stables, will suffice to produce a sufficient quantity of meat for the farmer's family.

In the second place, bread should never be bought with the cotton crop. If wheat cannot be grown it should be bought with corn; or if corn be an unprofitable crop, which it is on nine-tenths of the plantations in South Carolina, some other grain less expensive, but equally valuable in market, should be grown to be sold or given in exchange for wheat or flour. If our farmers could be induced to determine to produce their own meat and bread, two great points would be gained towards adopting that system of plantation economy which would restore our State to her wonted prosperity. But so long as our smoke-houses are in Baltimore, and our grain crops in the Northwest, we will continue to be "hewers of wood and drawers of water" for other less favored, but more prudent people.

The cultivatable land of South Carolina is capable of sustaining four times its present population. Hence there must be a vast quantity of it waste or unprofitably utilized, simply growing up in pine thickets and producing nothing to defray the annual taxes imposed upon them. Few acres in the State so sterile, that they will not cover their own nakedness with vegetable matter during the summer. This growth can be and should be turned to account, by being consumed by sheep upon the spot where it grows. One million Merino sheep might be imported into South Carolina on the first day of next May, and subsisted till the first of the following November, without further cost than penning them every night, as security against dogs. Almost every native grass or weed that grows in the State is fattening food for sheep, and being closely nipped by these ramblers is carried nightly to the hurdling pens, and before morning there distributed, with wonderful accuracy, as a concentrated fertilizer over the land. Every hundred sheep thus managed during a year will so thoroughly enrich the most barren two-acre lot, that it will grow the following season barley or turnips enough to carry the same hundred sheep through the succeeding winter; and if this same lot be then seeded in grass it will yield two tons of hay to the acre, or if planted in cotton will produce more than a bale to the acre, with average seasons and proper culture.

Sheep will not only gather from our waste lands all kinds of noxious weeds and grasses, and convert them into stimulating manures, thus restoring the most barren spots to fertility almost without cost, but every ewe will with the greatest certainty produce a lamb, and the wool-clips from any flock of grade Merinos will more than compensate for the trouble and expense annually incurred. As an article of diet no flesh is more delicious than mutton, and as an evidence that the prejudice existing against the peculiar taste of mutton is rapidly yielding to popular favor, it will command at all times a higher price than beef or pork. That more sheep are not grown in South Carolina is amazing, and can only be accounted for from the infatuation of our farmers upon the cotton crop. Any system of plantation economy adopted in this State and ignoring the sheep flock is incomplete and expensive.

Growing wool and bacon at home, and substituting the small grain crop for corn, except where corn can be most profitably grown, is by no means an abandonment of the culture of cotton. This system will curtail the area, but tends to increase the yield, and thereby encourages the farmer to aim at making his cotton crop what it should be, a net income. Over four thousand pounds of seed cotton have been grown upon a single acre in South Carolina, and frequently ten bales, of four hundred pounds of lint cotton each, have been picked and ginned from ten acres. Such crops, however, never have and never will be gathered by the farmer who anticipates his harvest in proportion to the area planted. An average cultivated crop in South Carolina is about twenty-five acres to the mule; ten acres in corn, and fifteen in cotton; and is a most wasteful economy, which scarcely produces corn enough to feed the laborers and plough animals, and not a sufficiency of cotton to guarantee an appreciable net income to the farming community.

If more grasses and small grain were sown, and less corn cultivated, the number of plough animals, which are expensive feeders, might be greatly reduced. For instance, the mule that can cultivate twenty-five acres of corn and cotton, can cultivate the same proportion of cotton and twice as many acres of small grain as of corn. Or if three mules be required to cultivate forty-five acres of cotton and thirty acres of corn, by a substitution of small grain for corn, two mules can cultivate the forty-five acres of cotton, and the thirty acres of small grain, thus on a three mule farm of the present system, by this substitution saving the expense of keeping annually one mule.

Almost everywhere in South Carolina barley will produce, upon sheep hurdled lots, from twenty-five to fifty bushels per acre; rye will produce on any upland as many bushels as corn; wheat should be sown only to prevent buying flour, and red oats will produce two bushels with more certainty and less expense than corn will one; and if one bushel of corn will feed a working mule four days, two bushels of red oats will feed them five days, keep them in better health, make him more sprightly, and tend to prolong his life, whereas corn as a constant food has an opposite tendency. These red oats have never yet taken the rust in South Carolina, and have never failed to remunerate the farmer, if sown early enough in the fall. If sown in August they will supply winter pasturage for sheep without detriment to the crop, and greatly to the benefit of the flock. To economize labor they should be sown on cotton land previously to ploughing the cotton the last time. The cotton crop requires the work, and the oats are thus sown with no other cost than that of sowing. The cotton stalks can be knocked down in March, and the oat crop harvested in May.

Every policy that aims at reducing labor on the farm should be adopted, for no question has so worried and troubled the Southern planter during the past few years as that of labor. When labor was capital, never were two antagonistic elements known to harmonize more beautifully; but at present they are the antipodes of each other in the South; and, contrary to all anticipations of practical economy, where they conflict, labor usually becomes ascendant. No amount of capital can control that peculiar system of labor now existing at the South. Fair wages will command a sort of made-shift performance. Enhanced pay, or wages increased even tenfold, will not perceptibly improve the quality of the work. Fifty cents an acre may "hoe" an acre of cotton, seventy-five cents will not perform the work any better. Ten dollars per month will command so much labor; twenty dollars per month will not improve the quality, nor increase the quantity of the same work. Such a general condition will continue during this generation. Each individual farmer may effect a different and better result upon his own farm, but, to make the change general, some system must be adopted that will produce the same result with less dependence upon this inefficient labor. If a substitution of the small grain crop for the corn crop, upon most of our plantations, dispenses with one-third the plough animals on the plantation, the same system will discharge the same proportion of labor. Six laborers are required to cultivate seventy-five acres of land, if thirty in corn and forty-five in cotton. Four laborers will cultivate the same area, if thirty be in small grain and forty-five in cotton, thus saving to the employer the hire and rations of one-third the laborers, as well as one-third the plough stock.

This system, too, enables the farmer to rest his lands, or (by succeeding his small grain with a green crop to turn under in the fall, such as the pea crop sown drown broad-cast, at the rate of two bushels to the acre,) so rotate his summer crop as to improve his lands perceptibly in a few years. Large yields of cotton may put money in the pocket, but it annually impoverishes the farmer. Strange paradox! but, nevertheless, true. Any crop that frequently turns the surface of our soil to the bleaching agency of the sun during our hot summer months, must by evaporation extract from the soil more fertility than is restored to it by a sprinkling of a few pounds of caustic fertilizers. And our washing rains always fall during the summer, washing away the little soluble matter, or plant-food the soil contains. Hence the devotee to cotton may for a few years receive handsome returns for his labors, but he seldom leaves to his offspring an inheritance of an improved plantation.

Beef cattle cannot be profitably grown in the greater portion of South Carolina, as a marketable commodity. If every farmer butchered a sufficiency for his family, and supplied himself with milk and butter, it should suffice. Beyond this, cattle, in a majority of cases, are unprofitable stock. Their heavy tramp is injurious to our light lands, and being the poorest of scavengers, they require too much feeding between November and May to be profitable. Of course certain portions of the State are exceptions to this general remark. In the Pedee section and coast counties of South Carolina, there are large areas of uncultivated lands that could be in no other manner more profitably utilized than by stocking them with herds of such cattle as are best suited to our climate and usage. The Brahmin and Ayreshires, with their crosses, would be invaluable to the owners of such lands.

Strange as it may seem the chief objection to stock raising in this Southern climate is the winter feeding. Sheep will winter themselves upon our cotton fields and the early sown grain, but cattle must be housed and fed. Fortunately, however, any acre of upland, thoroughly prepared by deep ploughing and manuring and pulverizing, will, if left to its indigenous growth, produce grass enough to make sufficient hay to sustain a cow or ox during the following winter. And the turnip crop, properly sown and cultivated, will feed luxuriously two cows to every acre, or twenty-five sheep to the same area. They should be sown in the drill, on highly manured and well prepared land, in July or August, cultivated once with both hoe and plough, and fed away as drawn from the drill. Any of the white varieties will keep sound until half the winter is gone, and the yellow Aberdeen and Ruta-Baga will, if cultivated properly, survive our winter with perfect soundness. One thousand bushels, either by weight or measurement, can easily be grown to the acre. About three hundred bushels is an average crop in South Carolina. An Ayreshire cow will keep in good milking condition all the winter on two bushels of raw turnips daily.

But nothing conduces so successfully to stock raising as comfortable housing in wet or cold weather. Alas! for the poor brutes, how many of our farmers are prepared to house their cattle, sheep, or hogs, even a single wet, freezing night in mid-winter? The inevitable cowpens, half leg deep in mud and manure, are of Southern origin, and seem to be peculiarly advocated in South Carolina. An animal that is carefully protected from the weather during winter nights, and housed during the day, if wet or exceedingly cold, will materially reduce the expense of keeping by producing a large quantity of manure, and by entering upon the spring in such a condition as to at least gratify its benevolent owner.

To complete the best practical system of plantation economy adapted to our State, each farmer should realize the necessity of beautifying his home. He should not live for the moment, but every child should be reared to believe there is a peculiar attraction about the old homestead. The fragrance of the rose, the shade of the majestic oak, the carpet green that surrounds the venerable mansion, the ornamental out-buildings, and the general air of comfort and contentment, should be all indelibly impressed upon the plastic minds of our children. These features would be readily attractive to strangers, and would contribute towards enhancing the market value of our lands, now so ridiculously low, and induce our farmers to conclude this shall be their abiding place as surely as it has been the place of their nativity or adoption.

D. WYATT AIKEN.

The South Carolina Phosphates.

It is fortunate for South Carolina that at a period of State bankruptcy and unparalleled social and political disorganization a discovery should have been made which promises to prove a source of incalculable wealth and advantage, not only to the State, but also to the entire South, and even to foreign countries. In the phosphate beds which extend through the State, almost from one end to the other, there are found in almost inexhaustible quantities the finest and richest fertilizing deposits in the world. These deposits are specially adapted to the dry and arid lands of the State, and convert them from sterility into verdure and beauty. The discovery of these phosphates comes in good time to correct the wretched system of agriculture which renders periodic movements of the population to more fertile soils a matter of necessity. The fertilizers are also specially adapted to the renovation of the exhausted cotton lands of the South, and in this respect alone they will exercise a marked and decisive influence on the future cultivation of this staple.

Of course the development of this source of wealth requires time and capital. But the work of preparing and utilizing the phosphate beds progresses at a rapid rate, and already constitutes an important branch of industry. A number of fertilizer factories have been located in the vicinity of Charleston, and they are all employed to their full capacity. The phosphates of South Carolina have already become an important feature in commerce, and of the exports from the port of Charleston the largest proportion goes to Great Britain.—Canada also takes a considerable quantity. The Northern States seem to take very little. But the trade is rapidly extending throughout the South, and will increase still further in proportion to the development of the railroad system of that section. It is found, other things being equal, that the crop matures at least two weeks earlier by the use of these fertilizers than would otherwise be the case; that the chances of injury by the various vicissitudes of caterpillar and weather are very much diminished, and that the yield is increased not less than twenty per cent. With these advantages the South Carolina phosphates must soon come into general use in the South. Planters now possess more means than ever before to purchase the means for improving their crops, and are finding out that nothing pays better or more surely than money invested in fertilizers.

Some time ago the Legislature of South Carolina established an inspectorship of fertilizers, and the various deposits are now subjected to chemical analysis and are duly stamped previous to being placed on the market.—This appointment met with considerable opposition on the part of some of the phosphate companies, but the majority appear to appreciate the advantages to be derived from it. The exact per centage is given of the various salts and other elements which constitute a perfect fertilizer, and the mercantile value of the product ceases to be a matter of conjecture or doubt to planters and farmers, who can thus obtain the kinds that are best adapted to their lands. Heretofore, in the Northern States, at least, the use of fertilizers has been diminished by frauds in the quality of the article. It is too much the practice to reduce the proportion of the costly elements in fertilizers without any corpending reduction in prices, and farmers pay out large sums for articles which turn out to be almost worthless. So far as the inspector of fertilizers in South Carolina may succeed in preventing frauds of this kind so far will he contribute to the increase and general use of the phosphates. It is not his office to certify to the general excellence of the various fertilizers, but only to determine the precise quality or proportion of the ingredients of which they are composed. The substance of all commercial fertilizers consists of four elements, and the proportion in which these are combined by the manufacturer constitutes their value to planters and their adaptability to certain lands or soil.

The business of phosphate digging in South Carolina is rapidly increasing, and no other species of mining seems to afford more certain returns on investments. The present tendency of mining is towards the laying of extensive works and the purchase of large quantities of reserved territory. But there is still an extensive business done by small miners. One company mined fifteen thousand tons during the last year, and the productions from river deposits alone amounted to forty thousand tons during the last twelve months. It is expected that the entire product of the State will be increased not less than forty per cent. during the next year.

At present, South Carolina enjoys a practical commercial monopoly of the natural phosphate deposits of the world. During the last year, strata of phosphates have been discovered in Siberia, Austria and France. But they are all beyond the reach of immediate development, and are not favorably situated for the transportation of the products to a market. In all these respects the South Carolina rock deposits enjoy immense advantages. They can be reached, decomposed and manipulated with economy and facility, and the products can be easily and cheaply distributed, either by railroad or water transportation. All that is required to develop this business into vast proportions is capital, and this deficiency is not likely to continue long, in view of the returns which have been realized from the investments that have been already made.—*New York Bulletin.*

BOY'S COMPOSITION.—Crismus has come agin. It comes onst a year. I like crismus. I like to have the children say "crismus gif" so early in the morning. I wouldent swap crismus for the 4th of July, would you? The 4th of July has played out since the war. Them Yankees disgraced it, and it will never hold up its head any more. But they never hurt crismus. They couldent. Old Santa Claus is too smart for a Yankee. I believe if he had fout at all, he would have fout on our side. He's the best old man I ever saw. Fire crackers pops like the dickens. Some old fogiz don't like 'em, but I do. I've got me a dog picked out, and I'le tie a bunch to his tail just to see him run. He is a houn dog. Theres never no school about crismus. Old Santa wouldent let 'em, because hes a friend to the boys and the gals. I like the gals first rate. I like 'em better all the time. I've got a sweetheart, but nobody knows it but her. Snow comes about crismus times. I like snow, its so white and soft, and makes everything look so pretty. I would like to snow-ball a school teacher. The way I would sock it to him—you bet. A man in town told on me for rockin of his dog. The way I'll snow-ball him is a sight. Hollerin is a big thing about crismus. The boys down in Savannah has got horns. Them swell heads cant holler worth a cent. I can holler as much as any boy of my size. Some boys holler like they had the epizoot, but I Hurrah for crismus.

— We have the record of the last words of many of the great men of the olden time. We have none, however, of Socrates, for Zantippe would never allow him to have the last word.

Educational Matters.

The fourth annual report of the State Superintendent of Education, Hon. Justus K. Jillson, has been printed, and will be transmitted to the General Assembly within a few days. It is very full and elaborate in the statement of matters pertaining to the educational system of this State, and the details of the transactions of the offices of the State Superintendent and his subordinates.

The total scholastic population for the year 1871, as given by the revised returns of County School Commissioners, is 209,375—84,204 of which are white and 125,172 colored, or an increase of 12,197 over the number given by the State census of 1869. Of this increase 2,008 are given as white, and 10,189 as colored.—These numbers comprise the children resident in the State between the years of six and sixteen. Charleston county numbers 22,608, the largest, and Pickens 2,836, the least of any of the counties in the State. The total school attendance for the year 1872 is given at 76,322, an increase over the preceding year of 10,266, Charleston county having the largest and Georgetown the smallest school attendance. The counties of Barnwell, Beaufort, Charleston, Colleton, Georgetown, Horry, Kershaw, Lexington, Orangeburg and Williamsburg show a decrease in attendance. There have been employed during the year 2,185 teachers, an increase of 287 over the previous year; of this number 1,363 were males. The average monthly wages has been, for male teachers, $32,55, and $31.25 for females—Anderson county paying the least of any county. During the year there has been an increase of 280 free common schools, making the total number for the year 1,919. Abbeville county reports the largest number, 117, and Georgetown the fewest, 15.

Five months has been the average that the free schools have been in session, Sumter county alone averaging nine, the largest. There are 462 school districts in the State. There have been 226 school houses erected during the year, at a cost of $11,505.50. The returns, however, in this matter the Superintendent reports as having been very incomplete, but the number previously erected is stated to be 1,644, valued at $220,448, which number includes four brick houses in Charleston, valued at $100,000.

School text books have been distributed to every county in the State, excepting Clarendon and Newberry, the latter having previously received a good supply, and Clarendon having made no requisition for them under the amended school law. The Superintendent states that much dissatisfaction has arisen because of the supply being wholly insufficient to meet the demand. The conclusion is also arrived at that the plan of furnishing books, especially furnishing them free, is impracticable, and should be discontinued. Seven teachers' conventions have been held during the year, three each in Barnwell and Lexington counties and one in Spartanburg.

The largest number of students attending the University at any one time has been eighty-eight; the appropriations for the same amounted to $37,850, of which $10,000 was for repairs; in addition to this, about $3,000 rents have been collected. The Superintendent reports the number of students as very unsatisfactory and urges its augmentation; also, sets forth in an able manner the advantages of location, the library and the qualifications of the professors, and recommends special appropriations, amounting to $3,000, for the purchase of apparatus and the improvement of the library.

Of the institution for the education of the deaf and dumb and the blind, much is said. The attendance has averaged forty-two, up to the time of closing on the 27th of June. There was for the support of the institution the sum of $13,179, of which it is stated but $500 has been received, the same having been sustained on credit for the larger part of the time. Work shops, a printing office and sewing rooms are recommended, a shoe shop now being in successful operation. An appropriation of $15,000 is recommended.

Of the State Orphan Asylum, it is stated, the appropriation was $15,000, but the expenditures have been in excess of this amount $8,-030.27. There are 140 inmates, of which ninety attend school, where all the elementary branches are taught.

The Superintendent considers at length the present condition and needs of the State, and urges immediate improvement; reviews the causes that impede the progress of education, and considers the subjects of the poll tax, teachers' institutes, State normal schools, school funds generally, etc., recommending to the Assembly, in conclusion, the broadest and most liberal policy as the rule for action.—*Daily Herald.*

THE LAND COMMISSION.—One of the most fruitful among the many instrumentalities which carpet-bag cunning has devised to defraud the State, has been the Land Commission. There will probably never be a full exposition of all the guilty secrets connected with its management. That crafty individual, C. P. Leslie, the first Commissioner, who succeeded pretty thoroughly in sucking this Land Commission plum, has left the State and taken many of his secrets, as he has all of his ill-gotten gains, with him.

The report of Hon. F. L. Cardozo, late Secretary of State, discloses some very interesting particulars in regard to the Land Commission. It is, we believe, the only full and authentic report which has yet been made. Many of Leslie's rascalities are revealed, and it is painfully plain throughout that the State has been grossly swindled in nearly every purchase, or pretended purchase made.

It is probable, to make a rough estimate, that the lands which have cost the State in the aggregate $700,000, could not be sold to-day for $150,000.

From Chesterfield county, for instance, the agent sent on there by Mr. Cardozo to sell or settle the State lands, if he could, reports that the land is nothing but a sand barren, and that no one could buy it at a dollar per acre and pay for it, if the land was looked to to supply the purchase money. This sand barren cost the State nine dollars per acre.

But this is not the worst of it; one tract which cost the State something over $36,000, at least five times as much as it is worth, is found upon examining the record, to have been conveyed a short while prior to the purchase by the State, to some third party. It appears, moreover, from the report of Mr. Cardozo, that that the enormous price paid for the notorious Schley lands was not the only fraud perpetrated in this nefarious transaction. The public generally know how that the State was made to pay $120,000 for these Schley lands, whereas they only cost $30,000.

But it is not so commonly understood that, in addition, the conveyance to the State was not recorded for over a year after the purchase, and that in the meantime a mortgage of the premises was made by the original owner and recorded immediately, and months before any entry upon the books of the conveyance to the State was made.—*South Carolinian.*

— The feast of imagination—having no dinner, but reading a cookery book.

A New Application of Old Principles.

Mr. John J. Patterson is the new United States Senator from South Carolina, elected by the Republicans, and, possibly, to be greeted by a motion for a committee of investigation before he has warmed the seat of his senatorial arm-chair. The charge of his having bought the Legislature of his State is made against him in the most unequivocal terms, and an opportunity ought to be given him to disprove it if not true. That he denies it was to be expected, but a simple denial is not sufficient, and ought not to satisfy either the public or himself where the accusation is so grave and so circumstantial.

But Mr. Patterson does not simply deny that he resorted to any improper means to secure his seat; he affirms what special influence he did use, and by which he captivated the legislators of South Carolina. He is, it seems, a native of Pennsylvania, and is proud to uphold in the State of his adoption the principles which are supposed especially to distinguish that of his birth. He went, he says, before the people of South Carolina as a candidate for the United States Senate "on the broad principles of protection to home industry." He presented his views also in a legislative convention of both parties, and so acceptable were they that a number of Democrats gave him their votes in addition to those of his own party. The purchase of the Legislature was this and this only—that he promised that South Carolina should be under the beneficent rule of protection as great and prosperous as the State from which he came.

Mr. Patterson's presentation of the subject was both simple and comprehensive. All that South Carolina needs, he told his people, is that she should manufacture her own raw material, instead of sending it to Europe and New England, to be manufactured there and returned in cloth. He seems to have assumed that so far as South Carolina is concerned there is no protection against foreign competition in manufactured cotton goods, and yet he, of course, knows, whether they know it or not in South Carolina, that there is no possible texture of cotton that is not covered by the tariff. The protection then that the people need, and which Mr. Patterson refers to, is not against foreign competition, for that they have already in common with the rest of the country, but against Northern competition. It is the goods from Lowell, Lawrence, Newark, York Mills and elsewhere that must be kept out of South Carolina in order to encourage her people to manufacture their raw material. She must have a State tariff, and as, of course, they are not so mad as to hope for any such thing by State action—for nullification in any form must be understood by this time to be a losing business—they can only mean to ask for it of Congress. Mr. Patterson's first duty, after disposing of the committee of investigation, will be to introduce a bill for the protection of home industry in South Carolina.

And why not? Why may he not reckon with reason upon the support of his fellow-members of the same faith in both houses of Congress? If it was a good thing to foster the manufacturing interests of Massachusetts and Rhode Island against the competition of England and France, why is it not an equally good thing to protect South Carolina against Massachusetts and Rhode Island? Why, indeed, is it not a better and a more reasonable thing to do this last than it ever was to do the first? The raw material is not the growth of New England as it is of the South, and therein the South has a great advantage over the North. There is not an argument or a consideration that was ever brought forward to uphold the wisdom or the necessity of a protective tariff for this country as in competition with any other that may not be applied with ten-fold force to the competition between the South and the North. That the New England State and the Southern State are in the same Federal Union, and, therefore, there can be no recognition of any antagonistic interest between them, is an objection of no force whatever; for if the antagonism really exists, and a tariff can be made to protect the interest of one portion of the people at the expense of the other, then the Union is oppressive and cruel. So let Mr. Patterson bring in his little bill and push his protective friends to conclusions. Give South Carolina the protection she needs if that be the true policy. A principle is good for nothing that will not bear the test of the extremest application, and there could not be a fairer trial than the suggestion of which Mr. Patterson intimates secured him his election.—*New York Evening Post.*

HINTS ON SHOPPING.—It is poor economy—or, rather, no economy at all—to purchase inferior fabrics because they are cheap. Persons in limited circumstances often commit this error. If a calico at ten cents a yard looks about as well as one at twelve or fifteen cents, the prudent purchaser will often think it economy to choose the low-priced goods. As it is low-priced, she may indulge in a yard or two more for ruffles or bias folds, flattering herself that cheap ornamentation is an equivalent for fine quality. This mistake may be seen permeating the entire wardrobe of many sensible people. The result is simply this:—they never have anything of really good quality, are always shabby, always buying. None but rich people can afford to buy poor goods. This rule applies to all sorts of goods—muslins, cloths, carpets and table linen. We grudge the time we see women spend in making up muslins of low grade for underclothing. There are so many stitches in a shirt! And when it last one year instead of two, as it should, there is just twice as much work done as need to be. Better make three shirts of fine quality muslin than six of a lower grade of muslin. Just so in flannels. A fifty-cent all wool Shaker flannel will wear two or three times as long as your flimsy cotton and wool stuff a few pennies cheaper. Especially in a family of children, fabrics should be chosen for service that when made up they may descend from one child to another, thus saving the mother time to stitch into her brain a little embroidery of thought and culture. A few rules with regard to shopping itself may be in place. First:—Have a list of articles to be purchased made out in black and white. By this means you will be saved from sudden temptation to buy what is really not necessary, and forget nothing that you require. Second: Deal only with merchants in whose business integrity you can confide. Third:—In the long run one always does better to buy at one and at the same place than run about for the purpose of hunting up bargains. A regular customer can often get favors denied to an occasional purchaser. Fourth:—Never buy what you don't want, simply because it is cheap.

— A little boy was playing with a couple of nickle five cent pieces, the other evening, which a friend had given him, and putting his finger on one of them, said, "This one I am going to give the heathen." He kept on playing, till at last one of the nickles rolled away, and he couldn't find it. "Which one have you lost?" asked the friend. "The one I was going to give to the heathen," replied the cherub.

— A Georgia authoress has written a novel in which Alexander H. Stephens appears as the hero.

Death of Louis Napoleon.

The news comes to us from Chiselhurst that Napoleon III is no more. His rise to the highest position of power in France and in Europe was rapid, and his fall has been equally sudden. Through all his youth, and until middle age, he was regarded as an impracticable dreamer, with aspirations which neither his fortunes nor his capacities would justify. In all the variety of his checkered career, however, before he reached power, he remained true to his own claims and pretensions. However reduced, wherever an exile, he maintained a certain stateliness, and professed always to expect to rise to greatness and ascend the throne of his uncle. There was force enough in the Napoleonic ideas, which he adopted and cherished, coupled with his unyielding sense of his coming grandeur, and the opportune disturbance in the affairs of France, consequent upon the overthrow of the Government of Louis Phillipe, to lift him into power. Elected as President of France, he soon threw off all trammels, and by a *coup d'etat*, seized upon the reins of government, and had himself declared Emperor. In this position he developed higher abilities and a more far-reaching genius than he had been credited with. He did much to develop the material prosperity of France. Wealth greatly increased during his eighteen years of sway; but France weakened nevertheless, and the spirit of the people became enervated. Napoleon made some fatal mistakes in his foreign policy, notably in that of undertaking a protectorate in Mexico, and in declaring war without due preparation against Prussia. His power began visibly to decline with the *faux pas* in Mexico, and as he began to feel the sceptre dropping from his hands, he was driven by the temper of the people and his own adverse fates, hastily, unadvisedly and unpreparedly into a war with Bismarck and King William. We all know the rest. His kingdom went to pieces like a house of cards, and Sedan closed the scene. An exile in England, he continued to intrigue, and was waiting, no doubt, anxiously for the time to come when he would either be called to rule France again, or make his way to power at the head of his army. Death has relieved him of his cares, and in her present complications France has one intriguer less to tear and rend her vitals. One thing we would not forget in his favor. He evidently desired to recognize the Southern Confederacy, and but for the refusal of Lord Palmerston to join him, this would have been done. This was a friendly sentiment, to which we can never become indifferent. Peace to the ashes of Napoleon III, and may his son escape the troubles and disasters which tracked his father to his death.—*Columbia Phœnix.*

Cure for Stammering.

Some years ago, says Dio Lewis, a famous professor came to town where we were then residing, and announced that he could "cure the worst cases of stuttering in ten minutes without a surgical operation." A friend of ours was an inverate case, and we advised him to call upon the wonderful magician. He called, was convinced by the testimonials exhibited, struck up a bargain, paid fifty dollars, and soon returned at our office talking as straight as a railroad track.

We were greatly astonished, and asked our friend by what miracle he had been so strangely and suddenly relieved of his life-long trouble. He most provokingly informed us that he had made a solemn pledge not to reveal the process of cure.

We knew two other bad cases—ladies—and calling upon them, reported what had come to pass.

They were soon at the professor's rooms, came away greatly elated, raised the hundred dollars, went the next day, paid the cash, and in half an hour were ready, had the question been popped, to say "Yes" without a jerk!

We were soon made acquainted with several other cures quite as remarkable, and resolved to put on our sharpest wits and wait upon the magician ourselves.

He seemed an honest man, and in two days we had made up our mind to pay him a large fee and learn the strange art, with the privilege of using it to cure whomsoever we would.

Those who had been cured by the professor was solemnly bound not to reveal the secret to any one, but our contract gave us the privilege of using the knowledge as we pleased.

And now we propose to give the readers of this journal a simple art which has enabled us to make very happy many unhappy stammerers. In our own hands it has often failed to effect the desired result, but in three-fourths of the cases which we have treated the cure has been complete.

The secret is simply this: The stammerer is made to mark the time in his speech, just as it is as ordinarily done in singing. He is at first to beat on syllables. It is best at the first lesson to read some simple composition, like one of David's Psalms, striking the finger on the knee at every word, then read in a newspaper, beating each syllable.

You can beat time by striking the finger on the knee, by simply hitting the thumb against the forefinger or moving the large toe in the boot.

We doubt if the worst case of stuttering could continue long, provided the sufferer would read an hour or two every day, with thorough practice of this simple art, observing the same in his conversation.

SUMNER'S CONSISTENCY.—The day after the opening of the present session of Congress, Senator Sumner introduced a resolution expunging from the Army and Navy Register, and from United States battle flags, the record and names of the victories gained by the Federal troops in the late war. At once the Radical and Administration organs commenced a furious attack upon the author of the measure for the inconsistency of his course, and the insult, as they termed it, which he had offered to the Union cause. The Legislature of Massachusetts passed severe resolutions of censure, and the cry became general that Mr. Sumner had deserted the Northern side and gone over to the Southern rebels. For the edification of those who question his consistency, the friends of the Massachusetts Senator have republished a scrap of history, which shows that in May, 1862, Mr. Sumner introduced and urged the passage of a resolution exactly similar to the one for which he is now being so heartily abused.

CURIOUS AND USEFUL CROW.—J. Snyder, of Virginia, owns a crow which serves as a substitute for dogs, cats and all other domestic sentinels. He destroys every frog about the well; allows a mouse no chance for his life; drives away hawks from the poultry, and bids fair to make the best squirrel dog in the country. He readily spies the squirrel, either upon the fence or on the trees, and, with a natural antipathy to the squirrel tribe, his shrill, keen note is readily detected by his owner, accompanied by rapid darts up and down, and the owner is thus led to the game. The most remarkable feature about the crow is that he invariably keeps five or six days rations ahead of time, well concealed.